

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending. Support for the above amendments may be found throughout the specification, such as, in the drawings as well as in paragraph [0029] of the U.S. Patent Office publication of the present application (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0182432).

Return of an initialed copy of the PTO 1449 Form filed August 7, 2007, pursuant to MPEP § 609, is requested.

The Section 102 rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-16 over Umemoto (JP 2001-213915), is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested in view of the following distinguishing comments.

Initially, the applicants note the first named inventor of the cited document is believed to be "Yoda" and the Examiner is requested to appreciate that U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0010378, published January 16, 2003, claims benefit of the cited JP 2001-213915 and is believed to be equivalent thereto. Consideration of this English equivalent of (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0010378), by the Examiner is requested however as the Examiner has provided an apparent detailed analysis of JP 2001-213915, the Examiner is believed to have perhaps already considered the same.

The module of the cited document includes, as a layer 6, a transparent adhesive tape which adheres the solar cell train to the back cover glass of the module. This transparent adhesive tape is not required in the presently claimed invention and, in fact, would be contrary thereto as the presently claimed invention provides, preferably, an air

layer around the subassembly when included in a photovoltaic module to provide, for example, excellent sound and heat insulation, such as is described in paragraph [0029] of the U.S. Patent Office publication of the presently application (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0182432).

The Examiner is urged to appreciate in this regard that the present claims, such as claim 1, provide a module containing first and second "plate" members of resin adjacent to the light receiving and non-light receiving surfaces of the photovoltaic cells of the module. The specification, including the drawings, describe, for example, a photovoltaic subassembly (20 of the drawings) having its front and rear surfaces adjacent to or sandwiched by a pair of plate members of the above-mentioned "plate" members of resin (23 and 24 in the drawings). These "plate" members are further described in the present specification, such as at page 10, line 21 through page 11, line 2, as being relatively rigid and also adequately flexible and to provide support to maintain the geometry of the subassembly (20) after fabrication of the subassembly. The "plates" of the claims eliminate the necessity of bonding and thus fixing subassembly (2) to the sealed insulating glass.

In contrast, the cited Yoda is understood to disclose a solar cell module subassembly having its front and rear surfaces sandwiched by a pair of weatherproofed transparent film (5), which does not provide support and maintain the geometry of the subassembly after it is fabricated. Accordingly, when the subassembly is assembled to sealed insulating glass, the subassembly of Yoda must be fixed to one of paired plates of glass with transparent adhesive tape (6), as shown in Figures 1 or 3 of the cited reference.

The claimed invention therefore is believed to be patentable over the cited document and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-16 over JP 2001-213915 is requested.

The Section 103 rejection of claim 5 over JP 2001-213915 and Yaba (U.S. Patent No. 5,059,254), is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested as claim 5 which depends from claim 1 and includes all the details thereof, includes the requirement that the subassembly contains the "plates" described above. The module of claim 5 therefore would not have been obvious in view of the combination of JP 2001-213915 and Yaba. Withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection is requested.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

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